Mr. Kunhiraman Nair.—I beg to propose that the words 'for reasons to be recorded in writing' be inserted between 'satisfied' and 'that' in sub-section 3 of section 13. The amendment is intended simply to make the wording more precise.

Seconded by Mr. Nagam Aiya.

Carried.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—I beg to propose that the words 'Peishcars and' be omitted in clause (*a*) of section 48 (1). This too is a verbal amendment, consequent on the amendments adopted in section 44 at the last meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Rajaram Row.

Carried.

Mr. Kunhiraman Nair.—I beg to move that the Bill as amended be passed and that it come into force on the 1st Chingom 1078.

Seconded by Mr. Thanu Pillai.

The motion was put and agreed to.

LEPERS BILL.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—I beg to move that the Report of the Select Committee on this Bill be taken into consideration.

Seconded by Mr. Kunhiraman Nair.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Mr. Kuruvila.—With the permission of the President, I beg to submit for the consideration of the Council that the amendment made by the Select Committee in sections 7 and 13 is, in my humble opinion, likely to cause hardship to poor people who may fall within the clutches of the new law. The Select Committee have taken away the power of the District Magistrate to order the release of a leper on the ground that he is not a professional officer and that such power should be vested in a Board or the Durbar Physician. I would observe that a District Magistrate is more easily approachable than a Board or the Durbar Physician and, in cases of urgency, he will be in a better position to grant timely redress. I refer to cases where a friend or relative of the leper may come forward and offer to take charge of him after he is sent to an Asylum. Section 7 empowers the Magistrate to make the leper over to the care of such friend or relative prior to his being sent to an Asylum. But once a leper has been sent to an Asylum, the only authority competent to discharge him is the Board or the Durbar Physician acting under section 13. There is no provision enabling the Board or the Durbar Physician to hand over the leper to the care and custody of a friend or relative who may offer to take charge of him. Such contingencies are likely to arise, especially when the leper is in his last moments and though, from a professional point of view, he may not be considered fit to be discharged, it will be a boon to hand him over to the friend or relative. In such cases, it seems to me that the District Magistrate should be empowered to grant the necessary relief in time. I beg the Council will consider the desirability of introducing some provision in the Bill to secure this object.

After some discussion, Mr. Thanu Pillai proposed that the following be added as sub-section (2) to section 13:

"If any friend or relative of a pauper leper detained in the asylum comes forward and undertakes in writing that such leper shall be properly taken care of, the Board or the Durbar Physician as the case may be, or the District Magistrate shall discharge him if satisfied of the ability of such friend or relative to exercise proper control over him.

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Provided that a release under sub-section (2) of this section shall not be a bar to the re-arrest and detention of the leper in the asylum if it is found that the friend or relative has not taken proper care of him."

Seconded by Mr. Kuruvila.

Carried.

Mr. Kuruvila.—With the permission of the President, I beg to propose that the words 'other than a pauper leper' in section 14 be omitted. I think it desirable that the right of appeal conferred by the section should be extended to pauper lepers also. I believe there is no particular reason why they should be deprived of this privilege.

Seconded by Mr. Rajaram Row.

Carried.

Mr. Kunhiraman Nair.—I beg to propose that in section 7 (1), line 3, the words 'by a notification in the Official Gazette' be inserted between 'behalf' and 'upon'. This would make the wording more precise.

Seconded by Mr. Rajaram Row.

Carried.

Mr. Kunhiraman Nair.—I beg to move that the word 'area' be omitted in line 5 of section 8 (1), and inserted between 'any' and 'specified' in line 4.

Seconded by Mr. Thanu Pillai.

Carried.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—In clause (*b*) of section 8 (1), I beg to move that 'in' be inserted between 'clothes' and 'or'. This is merely a verbal amendment.

Seconded by Mr. Ferguson.

Carried.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—In clause (*c*) of the same section, I beg to propose that 'conveyance' be substituted for 'carriage' in line 2. The wider term is necessary in order to include boats and valloms.

Seconded by Mr. Nagam Aiya.

Carried.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—In section 12, line 13, I beg to propose that the words 'may be deemed' be inserted for 'he may deem'.

Seconded by Mr. Ferguson.

Carried.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—In section 13. line 6, I beg to propose that 'duly' be inserted between 'and' and 'signed' and the words 'by him' after 'signed' be omitted.

Seconded by Mr. Kunhiraman Nair.

Carried.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—I beg to move that the Bill as now amended be read again on a future day of which notice shall be given.

The motion was put and agreed to.

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Mr. Rajaram Row.—Mr. Sivasubramonia Pillai who is a member of the Select Committee on the Press Bill and the Weights and Measures Bill writes to me that he has been unwell for some time past and wishes that he may be relieved of his work in the Select Committee. I beg, therefore, to propose that Mr. Kuruvila take his place in the Select Committee on both the Bills above mentioned.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council adjourned at 3-55 P. M.

K. KRISHNASWAMY RAO,
President.

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